

Framières, Belgium. (2) ab. *nana*.—Of small size but the colour that of *obscura*, Spul. Framières. (3) ab. *minuscula*.—Of the same size as ab. *minor* but has the colour of ab. *obsolata*, Lambl. Framières.

Sideritis (Leucania) pallens, L.—M. Dufrane describes 2 new forms of this species in *Lamb.*—(1) ab. *minor*, 28mm., with coloration as in the type. Framières, etc. (2) ab. *nana* like ab. *minor* but coloration as in ab. *suffusa*, Steph.

Miana (Oligia) furuncula, Schiff. (*bicoloria*, Vill.).—M. Dufrane described 2 new forms of this species in the same magazine.—(1) ab. *minor*, 17mm. in expanse, similar to the form *bicoloria*, Vill. (2) ab. *minuscula*, same as ab. *minor* but similar to ab. *rufuncula*. Both from Framières.

Rivula sericealis, Scop., ab. *ochrea*, Cab.—The ground of the forewings deep yellow ochre and not straw-yellow as in the type; the hindwings are of a greyish yellow. Hautes-Pyrénées.

Zygaenae, Grypocera and Rhopalocera of the Cottian Alps compared with other races.

By ROGER VERITY, M.D.

(Continued from Vol. XL., p. 163.)

Melitaea trivira, Schiff., race?—Oulx ("one specimen taken by Mr. Lawson, July 31st, flying with *M. didyma*"). This information is furnished by L. G. Higgins in *The Entomologist*, 1930, p. 153, who also says it is "very different from examples from Eastern Europe; a most distinct form." Not having met with this species at Oulx and having two male *didyma*, which resemble *trivira* very much, from that locality, I asked Mr. Higgins whether it was quite sure that Lawson's specimen exhibited Riley's distinctive feature of *trivira* on the underside of the hindwing, *i.e.*, the first row of black dots, beyond the end of the cell, very near and quite parallel to the following row, which is on the edge of the orange band. This is the only character which I have found to be perfectly reliable in separating the two species. His answer was that it is unmistakably present.

Melitaea diamina, Lang (= *dictynna*, Esp. hom. prim.) exerge *vernetensis*, Rondou, race *alpestris*, Frhst., at Sestrières, and race *alpestris*, Frhst., trans. ad *magnaclara*, Vrtý., at Oulx (only one male on July 1st and a female on the 17th) and Cesana (males abundant and all very fresh on July 11th; females from the 15th and a few of both sexes still emerging on the 24th).—I have stated in my recent paper on this species in the *Ent. Rec.* that the race of Sestrières is small and very melanic and that its underside exhibits the features of the Central exerge, so that it corresponds exactly with the broadspread *alpestris*, Frhst., of the western and central Alps. The Cesana and Oulx race is larger and has broader fulvous spaces, so that it is intermediate between the preceding and the still larger *magnaclara*, Vrtý., of the Maritime Alps. I think the Central exerge of *diamina* should, taken as a whole, bear the name of *vernetensis*, Rondou, because it is the first one given to one of its races, although the latter is not a pure strain of that exerge, many individuals showing they carry a strain of the Northern one mixed with it, so that the race is a synexerge, as I have pointed out in the aforesaid paper.

Melitaea (parthenoides, Kef.=parthenie, Auct. nec Borkh. exerge?) varia, Meyer-Dür. race *variabella*, Vrty.: Clavières, 1800 m. (on July 29th, and, according to Higgins, Sestrières on July 4th).—I have described this race and established its position in the *Ent. Rec.* of 1931, p. 152, so that nothing need be added here about it.

Melitaea partheuie, Borkh.=*aurelia*, Nickerl, race *imitatrix*, Vrty. Oulx (males already abundant, but all quite fresh, at the end of June and still emerging after the middle of July; females from the beginning of this month and a few still emerging at the beginning of August).—I have already stated in the paper mentioned above that the species is found also on Mt. Musiné, which stands at the foot of the Susa Valley, near Turin, and is about 1000m. in height. I sent specimens from both these localities to Reverdin, who made sure of the species by dissecting the genitalia of several, with a view to discovering whether any belonged to the exactly similar *M. britouartis*, Assm. race *aureliaeformis*, Vrty., but it was not found. I have described race *imitatrix* and its appearance and variations at Oulx in the same paper. I must record here an aberration, in which the fulvous is replaced by deep chestnut, inclining to chocolate colour, whereas the black pattern is so poorly pigmented that it looks grey; it is a male with the edge of the wings on the right side ill-developed.

Melitaea athalia, Rott., exerge *helvetica*, Rühl=*pseudathalia*, Reverdin, race *celadussa*, Frbst.—Oulx (males from June 30th; females from July 4th; on the 20th this species had nearly entirely disappeared, but a few sporadic females still emerged till the 28th); Cesana (a few still fresh at the beginning of August).

Melitaea deione, H. G., race *berisalii* (spelt with a double *i* in the original description), Rühl.—I have not met with this species, but Higgins informs us in *The Entomologist* of 1930, p. 153, that he has collected at Oulx, on July 3rd, one worn example at about 3000 ft., which he cannot separate from those he has from Martigny. If the genitalia and other specimens confirm this diagnosis, it will be an interesting discovery, as *berisalii* was only known from the Valais and the *deione* of Tessin and the Alto Adige stand nearer to the nominotypical race of the species than to it. Whilst race *tessinorum*, of Biasca, is described as a transition to *berisalii* by Fruhstorfer, nobody seems to have noticed that in the Maritime Alps there exists another very fine race, transitional to *rondoni*, Obth., of Gédre in the valley of Saint-Sauveur (Hautes Pyrénées), and to the, more or less, similar *signata*, Sagarra, of Catalonia (Seva), which could easily be mistaken for the *athalia* of the same region, owing to their heavy black markings and their deep fulvous. The original figures of the species in Hübner's magnificent plates represent a very extreme and rather unusual form of both sexes, from what, one may be sure, was a remarkably arid locality: the size is strikingly small, as compared with the usual, normal, one of the lowlands of southern France, but not as much so, especially in the male sex, as in the tiny *dejonella*, Vrty., of the second generation (the length of forewing from base to tip measures 20mm. in Hübner's figure, whereas in my typical series of *dejonella* from Marseilles it measures 18); the tone of the fulvous is very pale and cold; the black markings are extremely thin and notably the central elbowed row of spots are reduced to a degree one seldom meets with. Hemming, in the *Trans. Ent. Soc. London*, 1931, p. 504, points out

that, on the strength of a statement of Duponchel. Hübner's specimens must have been from "Aix-en-Provence." There remains to be seen whether Hübner's form ever is so constant locally as to constitute a peculiar race; anyhow, I think it will be useful to distinguish the usual, larger, brighter and more bodily marked form by the name of **praestantior**, taking as typical a series of specimens collected for me by Foulquier at the well known Sainte Baume, in the Var, on May 20th.

The race of the Maritime Alps, mentioned above, as represented by a series collected by C. Höfer at Saint Martin de Vésubie, at the beginning of June, and again from August 10th to 27th in the second generation, is constantly, in all the specimens, and markedly distinct from *praestantior*, of the Var, and can be described as a further degree in the direction of *rondoui* and *signata* to which it is a near approach. Both generations are distinctly larger than the corresponding ones of the Var and the first is, in fact, as large as *magna*, Seitz, of Andalusia, the male's forewing measuring 22 and the females 22 to 23mm.; the fulvous is of a rich, warm and bright tone; some females are handsomely variegated in that this colour is alternated with a yellowish fulvous in some of the spaces; both the basal suffusion and the rest of the black pattern are always much more prominent than they ever are in *praestantior* and thus resemble some *rondoui* and *signata*, and even *berisalii*, except for the peculiar broad black marginal band of the latter, which does not exist at all; the underside does not differ much from that of *praestantior*, and there is no tendency on this surface to the prominent markings of *berisalii*. I propose naming this fine race **vesubiana** and its small second generation (male 18, female 18 to 20mm.) **vesubiella**. The latter, compared with the former, exhibits no tendency to a reduction of the black pattern, as does *dejonella* compared with *praestantior*.

As I am dealing with this species I must also note that, now Ribbe has made it clear that *magna*, Seitz, is the Andalusian race of *deione* and not *athalia*, Oberthür's name of *nitida*, given to the Algerian race, which is exactly the same, makes it a synonym, as Seitz's was published on October 7th and Oberthür's in June of the same year, 1909. I cannot agree with Ribbe that *magna* is a synonym of *nevadensis*, Obth.: the original figure of the latter is exactly like one of my *vesubiana* and it must apply to the mountain race, whereas *nitida* = *magna* is the larger one, with broader wings, a brighter colouring and a very thin black pattern, of the lowlands of southern Spain; I possess it from Murcia.

Boloria euphrosyne, L. race *neston*, Frhst. Oulx (beginning of June) and along the path from Jouvenceau to Notre Dame des Broussailles (beginning of July); race *euphrosyne*, L. Cesana (July 11th), Clavières (July 29th) and Sestrières (July 4th, according to Higgins).—I have shown in my recent paper on this species that in the drier and warmer valley of Oulx a race similar to the *neston* of Tessin is produced, whereas, further up in the mountains, from Cesana, one meets with a distinctly different one, which is quite similar to the nominotypical one of Sweden.

Boloria pales, Schiff. race *palustris*, Frhst. Clavières (both sexes emerging on July 29th); Sestrières (swarming on August 8th, from very worn to perfectly fresh conditions).—I have discussed this race, together with other cases afforded by this interesting and somewhat

puzzling species, in a monograph on this subject, published in the "Iris" of September, 1932. It unquestionably is, on the whole, a true *palustris*, but I have pointed out that some specimens, to my mind, distinctly betray a strain of *brogotarus*, Frhst.=*tendensis*, Higgins, so that this is one of the reasons, which scarcely admits considering the latter as belonging to a distinct species, according to Higgins's view (*The Entomologist*, 1930, p. 199).

(To be continued.)

NOTES ON COLLECTING, etc.

M. (E.) JURTINA SPLENDIDA, B. WHITE. REPLY TO MR. LEMPKE.—Mr. Lempke has only to consult the *Entomologist*, LXIII., nos. 802, 803 to find an account of Buchanan White's insect '*Epinephele jurtina* ab. *splendida*,' which is there proved to be a good subspecies. Since the paper was published I have visited Longa Island and Gairloch and taken *splendida* in fair numbers. It is unmistakably a subspecies and when seen in flight looks much darker than the ordinary S. English *jurtina*.—P. P. GRAVES (F.E.S.).

ANOTHER LITERARY CURIOSITY.—Another loss for Parisians. Paris without butterflies is inconceivable. It is a prospect calculated to bring infinite sadness to the entomologist, and nothing short of consternation to the Secretary of State for Tourist Propaganda. But it is a dread possibility serious entertained, it would seem, by expert Nature observers.

According to one of these, M. Gérard d'Houville, the beautiful insect is this year a rare sight in the gardens of the Luxemburg and the Bagatelle Gardens of the Bois de Boulogne. M. d'Houville remembers years when his eyes were gladdened in these delightful resorts by great flights of butterflies. He recalls a night of long ago when André Gide offered him a superb specimen that he had captured on an electric globe in the Rue Royale.

To the plaints of old Parisian about the demise of famous cafés and of familiar boulevard landmarks, and about the decay of manners, there may now have to be added yet another variant of the poignant familiar line—"Où sont les papillons d'antan?" ("Where are the butterflies of yester-year?")—"D.T." 18.vii.32.

CURRENT NOTES AND SHORT NOTICES.

A meeting of the Entomological Club was held at Speldhurst Close, Sevenoaks, on July 9th, 1932, Mr. H. Willoughby-Ellis in the Chair. *Members Present* in addition to the Chairman:—Mr. Robt. Adkin, Mr. Horace Donisthorpe, Mr. Jas. E. Collin. *Visitors Present*:—Mr. L. W. Adkin, Maj. E. E. Austen, Mr. H. W. Andrews, Mr. E. C. Bedwell, Mr. F. W. Frohawk, Dr. K. Jordan, Mr. Hugh Main, Mr. J. F. Perkins, Mr. W. Rait-Smith, Capt. N. D. Riley, Mr. H. J. Turner.

The members and visitors arrived at 3 o'clock and were received by Mr. and Mrs. Willoughby-Ellis. The Chairman's Museum was open for inspection, which included his re-arranged collection of British